

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



Week 1 Summary

1. Short term drought conditions continue in the rainfed winter wheat and barley regions of northern Iraq. There is a slight chance of minimal precipitation in the northern rainfed Kurdish provinces.
2. Recent PRT Reports for At'Tamin province have stated that conditions remain very dry. Wheat crop in the irrigated areas looked fair, but rainfed areas are very poor to nonexistent. Given these poor conditions in At'Tamin, it is speculated that the northern rainfed Kurdish areas, Dahuk, Arbil, and As Sulaymaniyah are considerably poorer.
3. NDVI change detection nanalysis using high resolution Quickbird imagery was performed on images collected over AOI #2, Dahuk, on November 01, 2007 and January07, 2008.

The measured sample area was approximately 26,000 ha, of which 22,000 ha represents potential cropland. Nearly 20% of the potential cropland area has showed significant increases in vegetation growth (Figure 1). However, further analysis of moderate resolution IRS-P6 AWiFS imagery has revealed that this increase is restricted to a relatively small area surrounding AOI #2 (Figure 2). Most of the northern Kurdish provinces either remain persistent or show significant decreases in cropland vegetation (Figure 3).

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Change in Crop Cover from Nov 01, 2007 to Jan 07, 2008

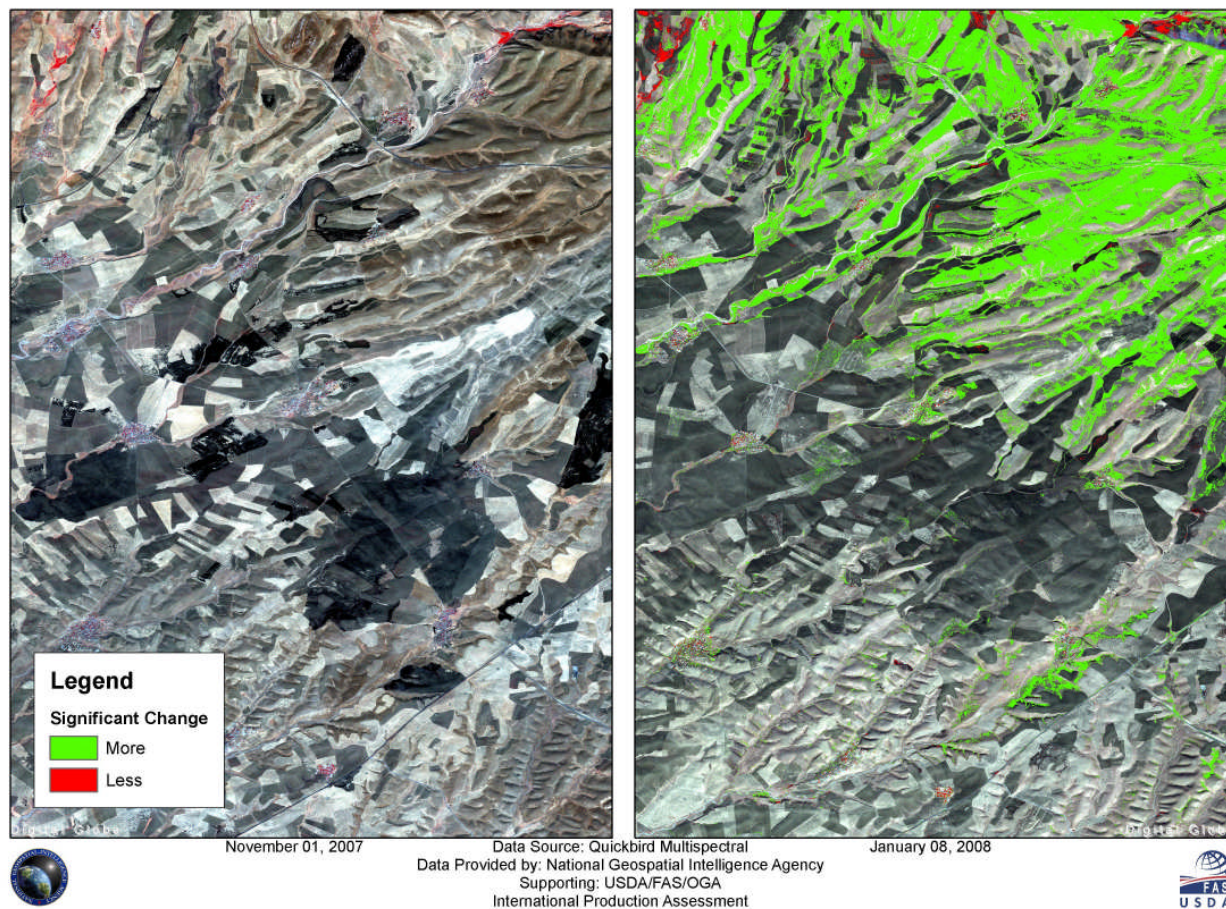


Figure 1. Areas of significant change in cropland cover from November 01, 2007 to January 07, 2008 using Quickbird Multispectral imagery.

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Significant Change in Cropland Cover from November 2007 to January 2008

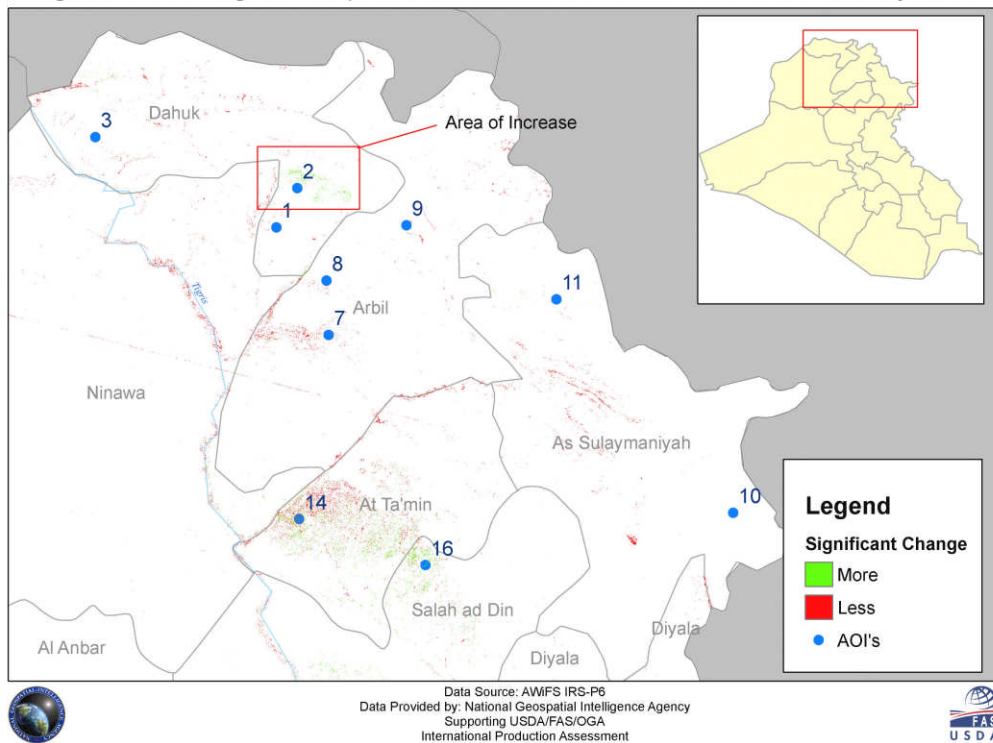


Figure 2. Area of significant increase restricted to surrounding region of AOI #2.

Maximum NDVI of Cropland Cover, January 2008

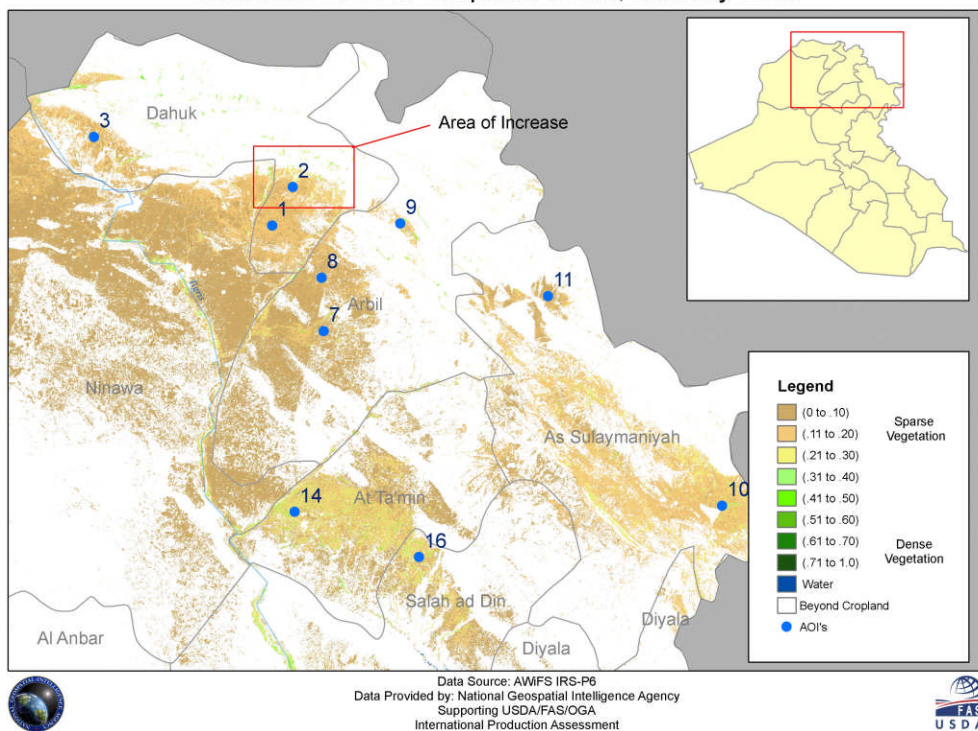


Figure3. Maximum NDVI composite showing crop growth in January 04, 2008.